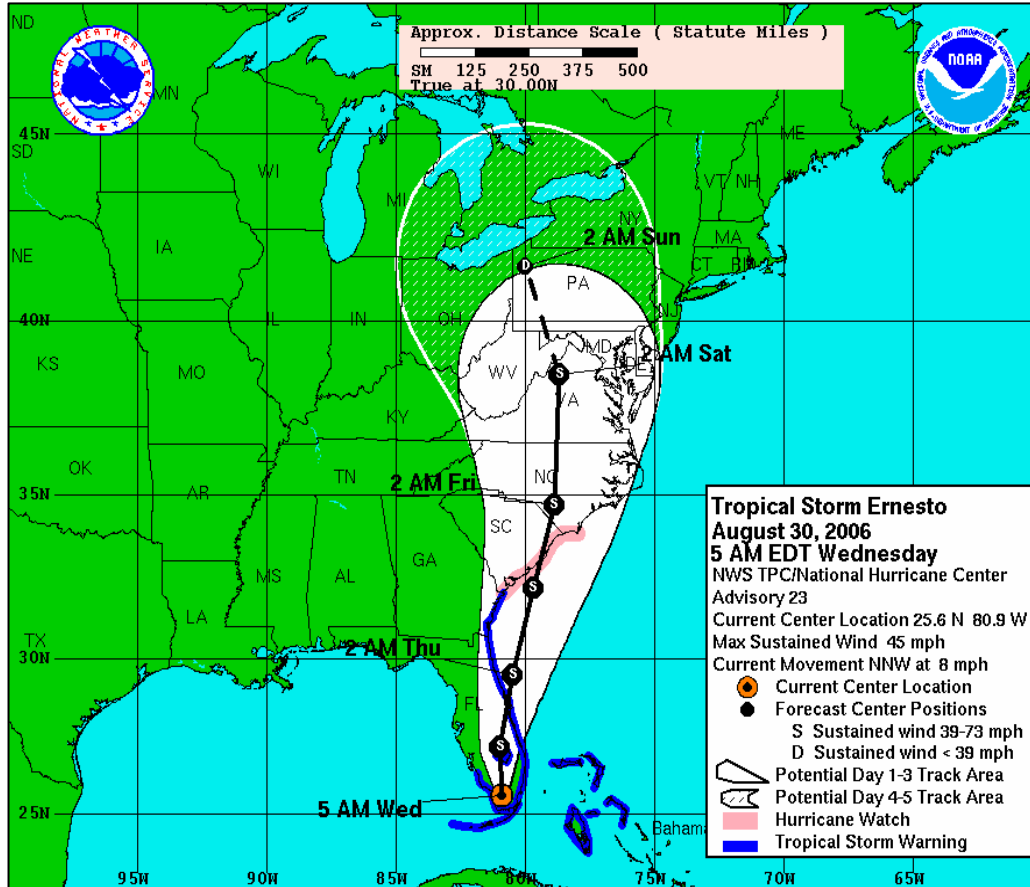
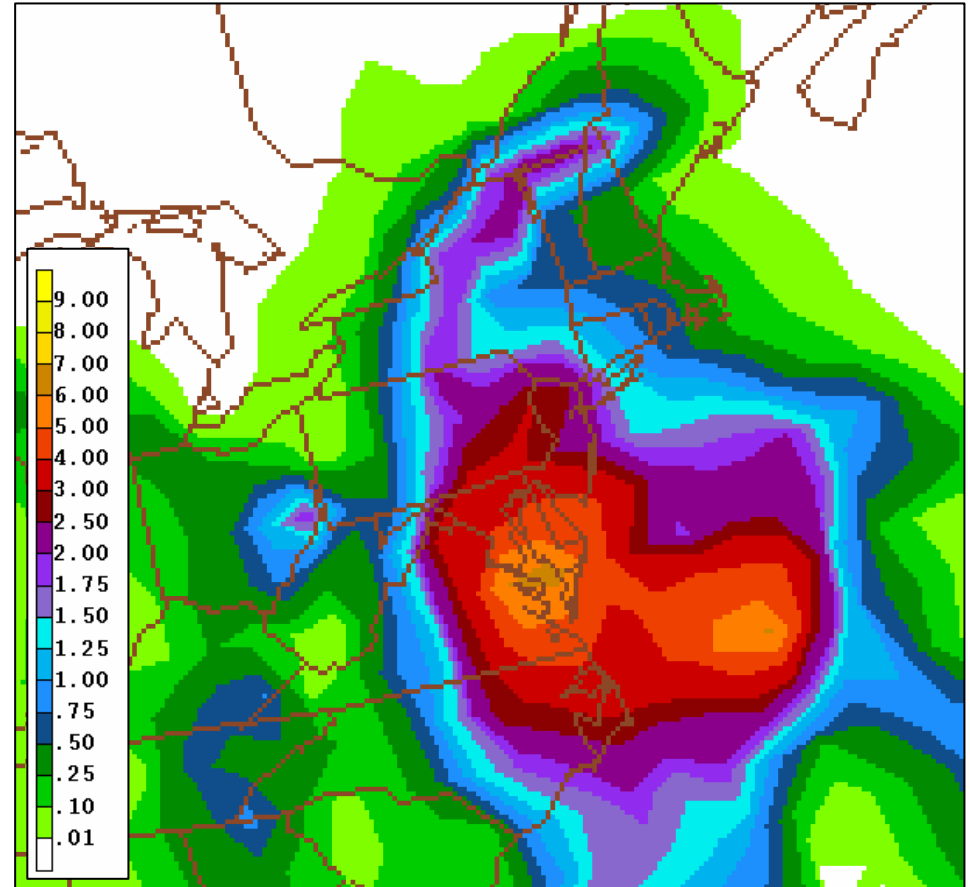




STORM TRACK FORECAST FROM NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER



RAINFALL FORECAST FROM NCEP - GFS MODEL



At 8:00 AM this morning Tropical Storm Ernesto was located over Southern Florida approximately 50 miles East-Southeast of Naples, Florida. Ernesto has maximum sustained winds of 40 MPH and is moving to the North at 8 MPH. Ernesto is forecast to move North and then North Northeast later today and move off the Florida East coast around midnight tonight. Ernesto is then forecast to regain some strength over the warm waters of the Gulf Stream (possibly becoming a minimal hurricane) before making its final landfall in South Carolina Thursday afternoon. Ernesto is expected to move North up the Appalachian Mountains on Friday and Saturday and into Northwestern PA by Sunday morning. As the remnants of Ernesto move well to the West of Connecticut on Saturday and Sunday, rain is expected to enter the State early Saturday Morning and may become heavy at times Saturday afternoon through Sunday afternoon. Rainfall amounts of 1 – 2 inches with isolated amounts of up to 4 inches are possible, however, major flooding is not expected if Ernesto follows the forecast track. Gusty southerly winds on Saturday and Sunday are expected to range from 20 – 30 MPH along the coast with gusts to 40 MPH. Inland, winds are forecast to range from 15 – 25 MPH with gusts to 35 MPH. Another update will be issued by DEMHS Thursday morning at 9:00 AM or sooner if the forecast track changes significantly.